

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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P 292309Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112628

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS EFIS GE
SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN REQUEST COSTA RICAN FACILITIES FOR
FISHING VESSELS

REF: SAN JOSE 1973

1. TWO BASIC PROBLEMS WITH GDR FISHING VESSEL ACTIVITIES
MENTIONED REFTTEL. SOVIET FLEET ALREADY PRESENT SAME
AREA (40 - 48 NORTH) TAKING PACIFIC HAKE FOR PAST EIGHT
YEARS. THIS FISHERY HAS CREATED PROBLEMS OF CONSERVATION
AND CAUSED WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT AMONG SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS
US PUBLIC PACIFIC COAST. BOTH POLAND AND GDR ENGAGED IN
SMALL SCALE EXPLORATORY EFFORT THIS AREA LAST YEAR. THE
POLES HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE INCREASING THEIR
EFFORT TO FIVE OR SIX VESSELS FOR 1974. GIVEN THIS BACK-
GROUND, SIMILAR INCREASE BY EAST GERMANS CAN ONLY
MAGNIFY OUR PROBLEMS. THERE IS ALSO INTELLIGENCE CONSID-
ERATION. WE HAVE NO SOLID EVIDENCE THAT GDR VESSELS
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HAVE ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER THERE

IS POSSIBILITY THAT REMANNING STATION COULD BE USED AS
MEANS FOR AGENT DROP. GIVEN LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
(WHICH APPEARS APPROPRIATE FOR COMPLETE CREW CHANGE FIVE
LARGE STERN TRAWLERS), THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MONITOR.

2. DECISION TO BASE IN COSTA RICA SO FAR FROM

PROPOSED FISHING AREA SEEMS STRANGE. PERHAPS MEXICANS

HAVE ALREADY REFUSED SIMILAR REQUEST. WOULD WELCOME ANY
INFO ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. GIVEN CONCERNS PARA 1, USG HOPES GOCR WILL DO NOTHING
TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING EAST GERMAN FISHERY OFF US
PACIFIC COAST. BROWN

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